



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Richard Johnson
James Brenner	William Morebeck
Patricia Beard	John Nitta
Paul Ferrari	Vicky Morris
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

April 9, 2007

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Paul Ferrari, Patti Beard, William Morebeck, John Nitta,
Richard Johnson, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Jim Brenner, Vicky Morris

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 9, 2007 AND MINUTES FOR MARCH 12, 2007**
Johnson/Beard/MPUV
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
Lee Bastian expressed concern about a development plan for the City of Wheatland for 1400 new homes. He feels there will be too much traffic and is concerned about where the water will come from for this development.

Mr. Bastian reported on AB1634 that was put into affect on April 10, 2007 regarding the spaying and neutering of animals within four months of purchase or receipt of a dog or cat. He is now a volunteer on the Animal Advocacy Commission, which has 16 employees and 68 animal activists.
 - IV. **APOINTMENT OF NEW AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE ON PLACER COUNTY VISITORS COUNCIL** – Christine E. Turner
Motion to recommend Nancyjo Riekse, Placer County Agricultural Marketing Director, to replace Christina Abuelo as Placer County Visitors Council Agricultural Representative.
Aguilar/Morebeck/MPUV
 - V. **REVIEW OF WILLIAMSON ACT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES** – Christine E. Turner
Motion to recommend that the Williamson Act Administrative Rules have a definition of Agriculture that includes production of forest products (including timber production).
Johnson/Nitta/MPUV
 - VI. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM 700 REMINDER** – Christine E. Turner
Commission members were reminded of the April 1, 2007 deadline and of the penalty for turning it in late and that there is a legal requirement for all Commission members to file a Form 700.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities – Nancyjo Riekse.

- Introduction of Carol Arnold, the new Market Manager for the Foothill Farmers' Market Association
- Report of Agricultural Marketing Activities for March

B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update – Lyndell Grey. No report

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram.

- Report on drought and forage conditions. Rainfall is short by 25%. Forage conditions 30% less than normal.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake.

- No problem to crops from the January freeze yet. The freeze appears to have helped the citrus bloom.
- Expects increased need for irrigation due to the less than normal rainfall
- Placer County Water Agency may cut water to rice farmers by 50% in May and not allow the rice farmers any water until possibly May 15th, which may be a little late for flooding the rice
- Not producing a Placer County Harvest Calendar this year and considering agricultural note cards instead
- Meeting in early May to determine the Farm & Barn Tour host ranches & farms for this year. Farm & Barn Tour is scheduled for October 14th
- Resource Conservation District (RCD) Ag Tour is May 30th

E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas/Minutes – Patti Beard. No report

F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – William Morebeck. No report

G. Agricultural Water Supply Subcommittee/Ag Water Waivers – Christine E. Turner. No report

VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Christine E. Turner, Agricultural Commissioner.

- Agricultural Sign Ordinance required second reading anticipated April 17th, which is 30 days after the first reading. Received letter of support from Placer County Farm Bureau. All text tied to wineries was deleted.
- Spoke to Agricultural Commissioners regarding a phone call from someone wanting personal phone numbers and email of Commission members and that staff would not give them out because they would not identify themselves.
- CEO – SB634 Williamson Act proposed legislation to require anyone in the Williamson Act to identify and make an application to move earth on their property. A \$2,500 per violation could be enforced, along with penalty fees and liens. Current contracts and contracts back to 1960's would be affected. The cause of this proposed legislation is from abuse of Williamson Act contracts restrictions.
- Explained to the Commission members the Use Permit process for wineries as agricultural processing facilities. Currently the majority of these Use Permits do not include wine tasting or events. The objections to adding tasting and events to the permit are mostly centered on issues with traffic, crowds, and noise. Melanie Heckel, Assistant Planning Director, is creating a Draft Winery

Ordinance that will be available to the public for review and comment.

IX. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS – None.

X. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007 at the Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
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